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Pitt County, North Carolina
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
Neil Elks, Sheriff

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FCC Mail Room

Date: November 21, 2013
Refer to: Proceeding # 12-375

MAILING ADDRESS:

Post Office Box 528
Greenville, NC 27835

STREET ADDRESS:

100 West Third St.
Greenville, NC 27858

OFFICE: 252.902.2800

FAX: 252.830.4166

www.pittcountysheriff.com

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Secretary Dortch,

I am writing with concerns for the Safety and Security of the citizens of Pitt County, North Carolina. These are citizens who I represent in my County of jurisdiction. I also, cannot help but, to think of other jurisdictions neighboring me and abroad (throughout the other States) who's security and safety may become compromised by the recent decision made of the Federal Communications Commission. Referring to #12-375, I can understand the Commission's decision to make changes in ways were" some cannot police their own". In that, charges may be, or remain very high with regards to fees. However, working with our ICS provider locally we have been able to keep costs to families and inmates alike at a level far below what is depicted in recent reports seen across the Nation. We have prided ourselves in not taking advantage of our local citizens in that manner.

As Sheriff, I am responsible for a 596 bed facility that is operated by 170 Detention Staff members. Detention staff is responsible for more than 10,000 admissions to our facility each year that is mostly pre-trial defendants. Unlike the Prison setting, Detention Facilities have continuing cases unsolved or in the process of adjudication. This process can take months or years to complete. While awaiting trial, many times incidents occur or are attempted: Intimidation of witnesses, plans for escape, plans for assault, harboring of evidence preparation before trial, continued criminal enterprise from inside to the outside, sale of illegal drug transactions and the list continues. Any phone system is an essential part of operating a Detention Facility. There is a cost associated with any phone system (tool) though. All

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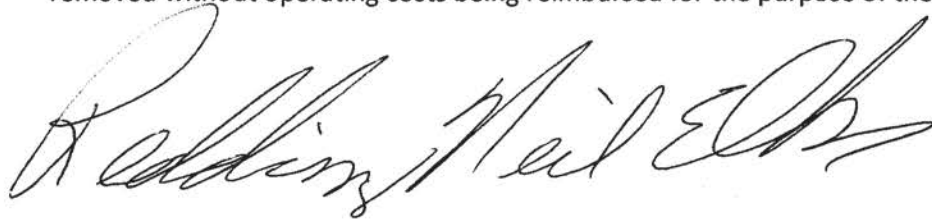
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Detention/Jail facilities will be different. Size & Population may change each thought and surely a "one size fits all" approach isn't the answer.

When daily duties incorporate initiating "pin numbers" for all admissions, securing data requested by outside agencies, maintenance hours expended by maintenance staff with in the facility, monitoring calls in the facility for security purposes and blocking numbers for citizen safety and concerns these all take a toll on operating the phone system. Many hours are put into a system to keep it running efficiently and properly all for the Safety and Security of the Citizens, Officers and inmates. Hours associated administering/operating our system is being analyzed.

Ultimately, Detention facilities should be looked at as Local level not, State or Federal. Detention/Jail settings are the breeding ground and starting point of "most" criminal careers. However, managing the Local level has always burdened (financially) "most" of those entities. Why fertilize the breeding ground and cause more financial strain. When the Federal Communications Commission creates more burdens on these Local entities, they may have no choice but to, eliminate the phone system (TOOL) that creates the Safety & Security in which most citizens no nothing about.

I would request that the Commission take another look at the differences between Detention/Jail and Prisons. Also, take into consideration the diligence that some ICS providers in combination with Detention/Jail Facilities have taken to be good stewards, when speaking of existing contracts. These contracts may have to cease, along with inmates using the phones. Of course, they (phones) would be removed without operating costs being reimbursed for the purpose of them using the system itself.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. N. Elks", with a stylized flourish at the end.

R. N. Elks, Sheriff

Pitt County, North Carolina

100 West 3rd Street

Greenville, NC. 27835